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MAR 17 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Xian-Ming Zeng :
Application No. 10/646,361 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: August 21, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. TEVNHC 3.0-587 :
:

This is a decision on the renewed petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed December 18, 2009, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application became abandoned as a result of petitioner's failure to file an appeal brief (and fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2)) within the time period provided in 37 CFR 41.37(a)(1). As an appeal brief (and appeal brief fee) was not filed within two (2) months of the Notice of Appeal filed August 22, 2008, and no extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained, the appeal was dismissed and the proceedings as to the rejected claims were terminated. See 37 CFR 41.37(b). As no claim was allowed, the application became abandoned on October 23, 2008. See MPEP 1215.04. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed June 25, 2009.

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of RCE (Request for Continued Examination), with the required fee of \$810, (2) the petition fee of \$1,620, and (3) a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly the RCE is accepted as being unintentionally delayed.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the

date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Kimberly Inabinet at (571) 272-4618.

This application is being referred to the Technology Center AU 1616 for appropriate action in the normal course of business for processing of the RCE received December 18, 2009.

/Kimberly Inabinet/

Kimberly Inabinet
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions